

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper which contains the food product;

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper ; and at least one layer of a ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven, and said packaging assembly is used in automatic dispensing machines equipped with said microwave ovens;

wherein the substrate is a continuous web of flexible material attached to a plurality of said outer packages, wherein each of said outer packages encloses said inner wrapper, which contains said food product, and at least one layer of susceptor material; and

wherein the food product is corn which is transformed into popcorn.

2. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a sheet of a heat-insulating material, attached to an inner part of the outer package.

3. Canceled

4. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made up of a sheet of a size equal to or smaller than that of the outer package.

5. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the substrate is made of paper.

6. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the inner wrapper comprises at least one area having two sheets of material, and wherein the layer of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material is inserted between said two sheets of material.

7. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the layer of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material is applied as a coating onto the sheet of insulating material.

8. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material is an oxide of aluminum.

9. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is attached onto the substrate by means of an adhesive.

10. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the sheet of insulating material is attached to the outer package by means of an adhesive.

11. (Original) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package is made of polyethylene and the inner wrapper is made of paper.

12. (Previously Presented) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the outer package presents at least one weld-line of a predetermined strength, wherein said at least one weld-line facilitates the opening of the outer package during heating.

13. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one layer of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material further comprises:

at least one strip of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material.

14. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly as claimed in claim ~~1~~ 13, wherein said at least one strip of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material is applied on said outer package.

15. (Currently Amended) A packaging assembly for food products to be cooked or heated in microwave ovens, which comprises:

an inner wrapper made of paper which contains the food product;

an outer package of plastic material which encloses said inner wrapper ; and at least one layer of a ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material; and

a substrate attached to an outer face of said outer package;

wherein said at least one layer of ~~heat-concentrating~~ susceptor material causes the opening of the outer package by melting a portion of the outer package, and a portion of the outer package is melted to permit removal of the inner wrapper from the outer package during heating of the assembly in a microwave oven, and said packaging assembly is used in automatic dispensing machines equipped with said microwave ovens;

wherein the substrate is a continuous web of flexible material attached to a plurality of said outer packages, wherein each of said outer packages encloses said inner wrapper, which contains said food product, and at least one layer of susceptor material; and

wherein the food product is corn which is transformed into popcorn.